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SAUDI ARABIA

ARAB GULF INFORMATION MINISTERS CONFERENCE ENDS 22 DEC

LD221842 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1635 GMT 22 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 22 Dec--The Arab Gulf information ministers ended their meetings at the King Faysal Conference Hall at 1730 today after discussing a number of issues pertaining to information and ways to bolster cooperation in this field. The ministers first met in the morning and later held another meeting in the afternoon.

In a statement at the end of the final session, Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said that the ministers reviewed the steps needed to strengthen the basis of cooperation among the Gulf countries in the field of information. They also discussed current and future developments in light of the growing importance of the Gulf area in various fields.

He added that the ministers stressed the need for employing the information media fully to serve the causes of growth and cultural development of the area's peoples. They agreed that the information media must contribute to the causes of prosperity, stability, sovereignty, understanding and peace in the international community.

The ministers, he added, have also agreed on the steps to be taken to counter all biased campaigns and expose them through coordination among the various information media.

Dr Yamani also said that it was agreed to continue consultations for the realization of the unified strategic objectives the ministers discussed during their morning session. They also agreed on the importance of drawing up a long-term unified strategy to counter the kind of distortion campaigns the area is exposed to while simultaneously playing positive roles and making contributions to humanity.

Dr Yamani regretted the fact that some information media have embarked on campaigns of deception and distortion that mis represent the picture of man in the Gulf areas and depict him as something to what he really is.

He described the Arab Gulf information ministers conference as successful and said all met together as one reunited family around one table. It is not strange, he said, that countries which are tied together by faith, blood, common history and fate should meet together.

Dr Yamani also said that the meeting was held out of the countries' conviction of the growing importance of the area in the current stage. It is also an expression of the will to bolster the basis of cooperation in the field of information among the area countries in response to the invitation he himself had extended in the name of the kingdom for holding such a meeting, he added.

Explaining the basic Gulf information strategy, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said that it seeks to expound the facts about the area and confront all campaigns aimed at distorting them. It also provides for the adoption of positive steps to explain the cultural measures that take place in the area and the area's contributions to humanity, since all our political and economic actions stem from the premise that we are a member of the world community and what concerns it concern us.

Thank God, he said, that we have proven that all our actions have been founded on sound objective bases and that we have shouldered our responsibility fully in this regard.

Dr Yamani reiterated that the Gulf countries will use the information media to implement this strategy. He added that all the media, including the press, radio and television, will be used locally and internationally to correct the picture which some quarters abroad tend to distort. Dr Yamani said that steps will be taken further to bolster those information media that have proven their effectiveness and that performed their role fully and in the best possible manner. Dr Yamani called on the world information media to uphold the truth and adhere to honesty, objectivity and justice in tackling Gulf questions. He added that many of the information campaigns against the area stem from lack of adherence to these basic principles.

Asked about coordination in the field of foreign information among the Gulf countries, Dr Yamani replied that all the past conferences of the Arab Gulf information ministers were in agreement that our efforts should always be unified in the foreign sector. He affirmed that these efforts will continue.

The Omani information minister, 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Pawwas, said that the timing of the conference was good and effective in view of the developments affecting the area both locally and internationally.

He said that, in brief, the Gulf information strategy provides for the confrontation of all who seek to distort the faith and Arab character of the Gulf countries. It also provides that the Gulf countries should complement each other in the various fields of information. He asserted that the resolutions adopted today will surely be implemented.

UAE Information Minister Ahmad ibn Hamid also affirmed that the conference has been successful and has achieved the objectives for which it was held. Speaking of the visit the UAE ruler Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan paid to the kingdom today, he said that it falls within the framework of consultations between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the UAE. It is natural, he said, in the present conditions through which the Arab nation in general and the Gulf area in particular are passing, that Shaykh Zayid should meet with his brother King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to study the Arab situation.

Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nasim al-Jasim also affirmed, in a statement to the Saudi News Agency (SNA), that the conference has been a success and extremely successful.

He said that there will be concentration on foreign information and local press to serve the objectives for which we met.

PAKISTAN'S ZIAUL HAQ ARRIVES FOR TALKS 24 DEC

LD240952 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Dec--Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, arrived in Riaydh at 1130 today on a 3-day visit ot the kingdom during which he will hold talks with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on Arab and international matters as well as issues of common interest.

King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz headed those who were at the airport to welcome the Pakistani guest.

FRENCH TV INTERVIEWS AS-SADAT ON KHOMEYNI

NC221946 Paris AFP in English 1919 GMT 22 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Paris, Dec. 22 (AFP)--Iranian ruler Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's deviations from Islam qualify him as a "lunatic" who is "full of hate," Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat said today in an interview here broadcast by French television.

President as-Sadat blamed the Tehran hostage affair, which he called "scandalous," on the ayatollah;" designed "to prove that he, Khomeyni, is a true revolutionary opposed to the United States."

"The man (Khomeyni) is really a lunatic because he is full of hate. Islam has never preached hate," President as-Sadat said.

In answer to a question, he added: "I think that if Khomeyni died, given the current anarchy and chaos, Iran would turn to a leftist regime in any event.

"But let me tell you that this conflict between Khomeyni and the shah is a traditional quarrel between the religious man and the emperor.

"What Khomeyni represents is hatred, not Islam. No one knows where Iran is headed, but one thing is certain: Iran today equals chaos, anarchy and destruction," he said.

AS-SADAT MESSAGE TO PORT SAID PEOPLE

NC231401 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Dec 79 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has emphasized that the peace march will realize a new achievement with the conclusion of the first phase of withdrawal from Sinai in January. He also affirmed that we are embarking on this new phase with open hearts, because we sincerely want to achieve peace. The president said that this area of the world can accommodate its peoples through understanding and cooperation, whereas it cannot accommodate them through destruction and war.

The president affirmed this in the message he addressed today to the Port Said people on the 23d anniversary of the 1956 withdrawal from the city of the tripartite aggression forces.

The message was read on his excellency's behalf by Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il.

The president said: The peace march will not come to a halt because of rancor or incapability. The rejectionists have taken a hostile attitude toward Egypt and they have disavowed its struggle, denied its sacrifices and cast doubt on the soundness of its course. However, history will hand down its verdict against them.

The president pointed out the struggle waged by the Port Said people during the battles which were crowned by the glorious October battles and the victories achieved in these battles. The president said: On this occasion, we mention Egypt's sons of the armed forces, who have waged the greatest battles and made the most exacting sacrifices in order to open the way to a just and comprehensive peace. We also mention Egypt's friends among the peoples of the world, who have supported Egypt's struggle, backed its stances and cooperated in the fulfillment of Egypt's objectives. Above all we mention the friendly American people, who took a decisive attitude toward the tripartite aggression against Port Said. We also note their positive and influential contribution to generating momentum for the peace march.

The president said in conclusion: Egypt is now stepping upward to progress and to the vantage point of prosperity. Egypt now enjoys security and peace and it will promote its efforts for development and construction. Furthermore, Egypt seeks to entrench sound democracy.

Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il had earlier placed a bouquet at the tomb of the unknown soldier on the president's behalf. He then reviewed the military parade which was held in the governorate's square. The parade featured token forces of the various services of the armed forces, of the popular forces and of the students of secondary military schools.

GOVERNMENT ABOLISHES WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

NC231521 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Dec 79 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has issued a decree abolishing the women's organization and all its branches effective today. This is in line with the will expressed by the people in the recent referendum when they approved the constitutional amendment to abolish the role of the single organization, establish our democratic system on the basis of the multiparty system and equate women with men in the political action carried out through the parties.

KHALIL INTERVIEWED ON AUTONOMY TALKS, OTHER ISSUES

NC232130 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1848 GMT 23 Dec 79 NC

[Interview with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil conducted by unnamed Cairo radio political editor--recorded; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] [Question] The progress that has been achieved so far by the negotiations on autonomy has focused on formalities; the talks have not dealt with subjects related to principles--above all, the status of the Arabs in Jerusalem.

[Answer] I differ with you when you say that the talks have centered on formalities. In fact, they have centered on two things: The first thing, which was dealt with by a technical committee or by the committee stemming from the general negotiations committee, deals with the elections in the West Bank and Gaza. The second committee specialized in discussing the subject of the authority and jurisdiction that will be exercised by the Palestinian autonomous rule. As far as the first committee is concerned, a study has in fact been conducted on everything connected with the measures related to elections--insuring both their freedom and that they will be held outside the canopy of the Israeli military rule and its civilian administration. However, agreement was reached in London on forming a central committee on the measures for the eleections and for their supervision; on holding these elections in a free atmosphere; and on determining who will be allowed to vote and to run as a candidate. The only point left on the subject of the elections is the specification of the electoral constituencies. Concerning the committee on the prerogatives of the autonomous rule, the Israeli military rule has now been defined so that it will be possible to specify its powers. The points on which agreement was reached at the lastest negotiations amount to a discussion of two extremely important subjects. The first is connected with economic and financial side, and the second is related to security. Therefore, we are not proceeding with the negotiations from the perspective of formality, but from the perspective of substance.

[Question] The most difficult issue, which has been deliberately postponed until next year, is the jurisdiction of the autonomous rule. There is a gap between the Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints on this question, particularly since Begin thinks only about a formal framework for the autonomous jurisdiction.

[Answer] As I have mentioned, this issue has not been deliberately postponed. However, during the past period, both the authority and the jurisdiction of the Israeli military rule have been defined. The same applies to the jurisdiction of the government stemming from the Israeli military rule. This is why this issue has not been postponed deliberately, but is being adequately discussed. Concerning the form that Begin envisages for the autonomous rule, this is absolutely not binding on Egypt. However, the decisive point here is the Camp David agreement, which stipulates that the full authority of the military governor and his civilian administration will be transferred to the elected Palestinian rule, God willing.

[Question] The coming period represents a turning point; is there a clear vision of what can happen? If the negotiations underway fail by the deadline--namely, this coming May--it will be necessary to look for a new approach.

[Answer] I cannot imagine that we should place failure ahead of success while we are negotiating with good intentions and with all determination to attain satisfactory results identical to the Camp David agreement. Naturally, we are studying all prospects, and plans exist for facing all possibilities. However, we hope to conclude the negotiations positively and by the deadline, God willing.

[Question] With the advent of the new year, there are plans to launch an Arab diplomatic campaign directed toward convincing public opinion of the need for holding a new round of peace talks in which all parties concerned will participate, including Egypt. What is your answer to this initiative, particularly if we bear in mind that a deadlock in the autonomy talks can endanger the Camp David framework?

[Answer] We always hear about the existence of an intention to hold other meetings. However, we do not see any of these states taking any step as an alternative to Camp David. As I have already stated, the Camp David agreements have transcended Resolution 242, the Arab states, whether they met in Baghdad or in Tunis, have always failed to present any alternative. All that is being said amounts to slogans, rumors and plans, the dimensions of which are unknown to us. However, we reaffirm Egypt's previous announcement that it does not object at all to any step taken toward achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. If the Arab brothers believe that they can do this, why don't they? Egypt is absolutely not opposed to such an inclination. However, we believe that we have offered and are now taking the practical step toward solving the Palestinian issue. If they have another solution, let them present it and we will bless it.

[Question] There can be no doubt that the recovery of Sinai will improve Egypt's political and strategic position. However, the Palestinian issue still figures as the most thorny problem in the negotiations. Even worse, this issue makes the task of finding a solution with Israel unreachable.

[Answer] There is no doubt that Egypt's recovery of Sinai is a fruit of the Camp David agreement and a first step toward achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the area. Furthermore, Egypt did not sign a unilateral peace agreement with Israel. On the contrary, it signed a peace agreement within the framework of a comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem--and we admit that the Palestinian issue is the core of this problem. This is why Egypt, on its own free will, embarked on negotiations to put the Palestinians at the beginning of the road leading to the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace for them. If the Palestinians do not like, or do not support, Egypt's stand and want to reach this solution singlehandedly, or if other states want to present other solutions, then we welcome their efforts. However, our commitment to solving the Palestinian problem made us undertake these negotiations to assist the Palestinians in providing a real and freely elected authority that will be able to negotiate the final status of the West Bank and Gaza.

[Question] Has there been a change in relations between Egypt and the PLO?

[Answer] There has been no change so far. The president gave Reverend Jesse Jackson a letter for Yasir 'Arafat, who refused to receive it.

[Question] In light of the recent changes in the Jordanian cabinet, would it be possible to sound out the new government regarding its accession to the current autonomy talks?

[Answer] This is a matter for the new Jordanian Government to decide. What we do at the negotiations is clear and known. We have concealed nothing from the Arab states; on the contrary, we are always announcing the new developments. Jordan is free to participate at any time. If it considers it fit to participate, then we would welcome it. If it does not wish to participate, then this is its own affair.

[Question] Regarding the settlements, the Israelis are seeking legislation to defend them in the future. This would change the legal status in the occupied territory and would undermine the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on autonomy.

[Answer] Egypt's position on the settlements, which has been made on all occasions, is very clear. We do not recognize the legitimacy of the settlements. President Carter has also issued clear statements in this regard. We consider the West Bank and Gaza to be forcibly occupied territory. We also consider any change in the position of these areas to be illegal.

[Question] Are there any specific conditions for reconsidering relations with the Arab states, especially since the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations is about to end?

[Answer] I have previously stated that Egypt was not the first to sever relations with the Arab states. It was not Egypt that imposed an economic blockade and caused tension in or broke relations with the Arab states. The Arab states, which have so far failed to provide an alternative to what Egypt has done, have found no course but to impose a blockade and try to starve the Egyptian people. I am sure these measures will not solve the Palestinian question. They are nothing but an evasion of reality. At the same time, I do not say that they could not find solutions if they want to. What is worse is that they hide behind slogans to impress the public opinion in these countries that the problem is on its way to being solved. A solution must be sought on certain bases. I have previously said that the Arab states that met in Baghdad and Tunis have not submitted any solutions or alternatives to what Egypt has done.

[Question] The area of Sa'd Haddad, or the so-called Free Lebanon, is becoming more and more permanent. This could be serious, and could undermine peace in the Middle East. What will be your future moves to solve the Lebanese crisis?

[Answer] We have previously stated our position on solving the Lebanese crisis, which the president stated very clearly. We said it was necessary that Lebanese sovereignty should cover all of Lebanon, that Syria must withdraw from Lebanon and that the PLO's actions were futile and only damaged its image, which improved last year. We also said that the PLO could embark on a fruitful diplomatic action that would lead, as we previously said, to the solution of the problem.

[Question] Lebanon is finding it difficult to reimpose sovereignty over its territory with the arrival of the Iranian volunteers, which is your comment?

[Answer] My comment is that the Tunis conference utterly failed to find a solution to the Lebanese problem, despite what has been announced to the contrary. Regarding the arrival of the Iranian volunteers to southern Lebanon, the fact is that the situation does not call for more volunteers. The PLO has enough volunteers to fight for their own cause. The main thing is that after the Baghdad conference, everyone admitted that there could only be a peaceful solution. What is the good of sending volunteers? Are they being sent for propaganda reasons only, or are they being sent to achieve positive results?

[Question] With Soviet influence in the Horn of Africa increasing and drawing nearer to the Red Sea from the south, there is the danger of the USSR dominating the Red Sea and the Suez Canal and of gradually surrounding the area.

[Answer] Egypt's position on this is firm and clear: We reject any foreign interference in Arab states' affairs. The Soviet military presence cannot aim at closing the Red Sea. If this is really the aim, then this would be a very serious precedent and Egypt would not keep quiet.

[Question] The initiative of appointing a new Egyptian ambassador in Moscow merely gave the green light to amicable relations with the Soviet Union. What progress have you achieved in relations with the Soviet Union up to this time?

[Answer] It is imperative for relations between us and the Soviet Union to be based on mutual respect and nonintervention in internal affairs. We wished that the Soviet Union, instead of condemning the Camp David agreement and seeking to prepare the circumstances for politically combating Egypt, would work positively to create a solution for peace in the Middle East. This is what we hoped the Soviet Union would do. The presence of an ambassador in the Soviet Union is evidence of our definite desire for our relations to be based on mutual respect. We urge the Soviet Union to take this desire into consideration. Thank you.

[Question] One final question. Right now, Israel is objecting to some reports that Egypt will open a small-scale embassy manned by no more than five staff members. Will you consider increasing this number to 12 staff members--the number of staff with which Israel will open its embassy in Cairo--in the future?

[Answer] As of now, the number has not been set; therefore, I see no reason for such a question. The size of an embassy staff depends on activities. Whenever cooperation and activity increase between states, the size of the embassy staff increases. Therefore, I deem this question to be premature. Thank you.

[Question] Thank you very much for this interview.

[Answer] Thank you. I invoke God to grant you success.

GHALI REPORTS ON SELF-RULE, RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

LD231308 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has made a statement to the radio representative. In it he said: The Foreign Ministry has prepared two reports, the first about the results to the moment of the negotiations on self-rule and the particular problems about the establishment of self-rule, and the second about the problems of normalizing relations between Egypt and Israel, to be submitted to President Anwar as-Sadat prior to the talks President as-Sadat will be holding the Menahem Begin, Israel's prime minister, in the 1st week of next January.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel will take place at an agreed time within 1 month of the completion of the withdrawal from the Al-'Arish-Rays Muhammad line on 26 January next. The minister of state for foreign affairs said that Egypt's aim is to realize comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East region, that it will continue the negotiations to overcome the particular difficulties to realize this, and that the opening of Egyptian offices and Egyptian liaison offices in the West Bank and Gaza is to assist the people of Palestine and to get acquainted with their views from close quarters.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that 1979 was the year of achieving lasting peace, since the peace treaty has been signed between Egypt and Israel which includes Israel's withdrawal from the Egyptian territories and also the establishment of self-rule for the Palestinian people. For this reason 1980 will be the year of achieving the second target of the peace agreement. He said that the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations is a means to assist the Palestinian people to relize their legitimate rights, and that Egypt rejects partial solutions or secondary solutions, but is seeking to realize a comprehensive solution. He said there is no comprehensive solution without solving the question of the Palestinian people, which is considered to be the core of the conflict in the Middle East.

PAPER DENIES FALSE REPORT ON RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA

JN230930 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 23 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 December--Today, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH strongly denies a fabricated report published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH or Iraqi-Bulgarian relations. AS-SIYASAH claims that the main reason behind the Iraqi-Bulgarian crisis is Bulgaria's refusal to release Iraqi diplomats accused of assassinating a communist Iraqi official.

ATH-THAWRAH describes AS-SIYASAH's report as a shameful and fabricated intrigue. The paper wonders about the source of the report saying: We do not know the source from which the Kuwaiti paper took this report on Iraqi-Bulgarian relations.

Iraqi-Bulgarian relations started to deteriorate when the Iraqi students studying in Sofia were attacked by a group of communist Iraqi murderers. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of Kamil Khalil Ibrahim. This prompted the Iraqi authorities to withdraw their students from Bulgarian institutes and to adopt several political and economic measures against the Bulgarian Government.

'AZIZ SAYS ALGIERS AGREEMENT WITH IRAN SHOULD BE AMENDED

JN241019 Doha QNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 December--Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has announced that Iran does not leave room for understanding between it and Iraq. In statements published in the weekly magazine AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI today, 'Aziz said that during the nonalined summit conference in Havana, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn met with former Iranian Foreign Minister Ebrahim Yazdi to discuss bilateral relations. President Saddam Husayn asked Yazdi to bring an authorization from the Iranian officials and to come to Baghdad to discuss everything, in order to reach a positive outcome. Dr Yazdi, however, left and did not return.

Mr Tariq 'Aziz added that Iraq signed the Algiers agreement with Iran under various domestic and external pressures. He continued: Iraq does not now accept this agreement. It should be amended and the Arab territories should be restored to Iraq. He said that through the Iranian ambassador in Baghdad, Iraq has informed Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni or Iraq's insistence on amending this agreement. The ambassador, however, has not given an answer to date.

VIET'NAMESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN IRAQ

JN221750 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 December--A Vietnamese economic delegation led by (Elyu Van Duc), foreign trade deputy minister, arrived here today on a visit that will last for several days.

The delegation will hold talks with Iraqi officials on strengthening joint cooperation in commerce and trade.

The Vietnamese delegation comprises experts and consultants who represent a number of the Vietnamese ministries.

LEBANESE-SYRIAN TALKS ON IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS REPORTED

NC230652 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 23 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the envoy President Sarkis sent to Damascus to discuss the question of Iranian volunteers in south Lebanon has returned with negative results. The Syrians informed the envoy that they were receiving the Iranians as volunteers who will join the Palestinian organizations and that these volunteers are being trained in Palestinian resistance camps in Damascus suburbs.

Our correspondent also learned that the Syrians are dealing with the Iranians as members of the resistance and that their transfer to south Lebanon will be within the framework of the movement of Palestinians over the Lebanese-Syrian border.

Syrian officials have told President Sarkis' envoy that they gave the Iranian volunteers only entry visas to Syria and that other affairs are being discussed with the resistance, since the volunteers will fight in south Lebanon alongside the Palestinians.

Arrival Reported

NC211300 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 21 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Responsible security quarters have received reports that a group of 30 to 40 Iranian volunteers have arrived in an area near An-Nabatiyah.

Meanwhile, a source at the UN headquarters in Beirut has confirmed that no Iranian volunteers have entered the UN forces area of operation and that any decision in this respect should come from the Lebanese authority.

More on Arrival

JN211541 Doha QNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 21 December--The Saudi magazine AL-YAMAMAH today reports that some 300 Iranian volunteers have arrived in southern Lebanon within the last 2 weeks. AL-YAMAMAH adds that the Iranian volunteers are receiving training in an area controlled by the Palestinian forces.

AL-YAMAMAH says that the Palestinian forces are trying to avoid any mixing between the Iranian volunteers and the Lebanese citizens in order to deprive Israel of any pretext to attack southern Lebanon.

Citing what it describes as reliable sources, AL-YAMAMAH says that the Iranians entered Lebanon via Syria on board Syrian army vehicles. The Iranians were distributed in various Palestinian areas. The same sources add that the Iranian volunteers were equipped with arms left behind by the Iranian UNIFIL contingent which was withdrawn soon after the downfall of the shah.

MILITIA SHELLS AREAS OF REPORTED IRANIAN DEPLOYMENT

NC221055 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Dec 79 NC

[Text] A Free Lebanon spokesman in 'Alma ash-Sh'ab said yesterday that Free Lebanon opened artillery fire on the areas of Ra's al-'Ayn and Ar-Rashidiyah in response to confirmed reports that a number of Iranians were seen there. The spokesman said the shelling is in keeping with the Free Lebanon war council decision to consider any area abetting Iranians as a hostile area and target for shelling.

HADDAD WARNS OF IRANIANS IN SOUTH, CRITICIZES WALDHEIM

NC240904 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0808 GMT 24 Dec 79 NC

[Speech by Maj Sa'd Haddad, "leader of Free Lebanon"--live]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen: Good morning. On this occasion, I would like to address for you my good wishes and hope for Christmas, hoping that all of you will pass a merry Christmas with joy, without knowing any sorrow and with happiness.

And right away, I would like to remind all our listeners, especially the UN soldiers who are far from their families, I would like to see them passing Christmas and the New Year with their family peacefully. And I would like to remind them, as we are a Christian people, we believe in peace and we are working for freedom. Unfortunately, we found ourselves forced to fight, but to fight for our land and for our survival.

You know what is going on in the Middle East right now, especially in Iran, and what the so-called one, his name called Montazeri, what he is trying to do. He is collecting recruiters from Iran to come and fight against us. Not only that, he is making it a campaign, he is making it a holy war. He is calling upon all Muslims in the Arab and Islamic world to come and fight against us because we are Christians.

We are not fanatics, but this one Montzeri is trying to make it as a religious war. On the other hand, we see the free world and the Christian world is in some way asleep. They are not realizing the danger that is coming from the fanaticism which is going on in the Middle East. So I ask anybody and every one of you to call his country, to call the responsible and tell them what is going on in the Middle East. Tell them that they are trying to exterminate the Christians in Lebanon--and after Lebanon, in all the Middle East.

I am so sorry for the behavior of your leader, Mr Kurt Waldheim. He is always, as you know, he is always talking in favor of the PLO. You see very well here, as you are living in the field, how many casualties you have been suffering from the action of the PLO. And now we see that the foreign minister of France is talking in favor of the PLO and against us.

You know very well if we give you more land and more and more, you know inside yourself, in spite of yourself, you know that the PLO will follow and will come inside our area immediately and they will slaughter us.

I am sure you are reading everything and you are listening to all the news and you know what is going on. I hope that you will dare to tell all the responsible men in your country the truth. All what I am asking you is to tell the truth; no more, no less; only the truth.

VOL: ONE IRANIAN VOLUNTEER KILLED IN TRAINING IN SOUTH

NC241313 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 24 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that 120 Iranian volunteers managed to enter the village of An-Nabi Sbat over the weekend to join a Palestinian camp for training on the use of arms. One Iranian volunteer was killed in training yesterday; his body was taken to Damascus, from where it will be returned to Iran.

VOP REPORTS ISRAELI, RIGHTIST MILITIA SHELLING OF SOUTH

NC251221 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 25 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Zionist-isolationist alliance is continuing its attacks on and shelling of the national areas in southern Lebanon.

At 2130 yesterday, this alliance opened haphazard artillery fire on Al-Qal'ah and Arnun areas. The shelling continued until 2215.

At 2330, the Zionist-isolationist enemy expanded the scope of its savage shelling to cover the area of Arnun and its suburbs, and the towns of (Kisin) and An-Nabatiyah. The shelling continued until 0100 today.

VOL Report on Shelling

NC251532 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 25 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Artillery shelling in the south was renewed this afternoon. The Israeli forces shelled the Ra's al-'Ayn area at about 1525 today. The shelling continued until 1600. No losses have been reported.

An exchange of artillery fire took place last night between Palestinian and leftist positions and positions of Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces. Sources of Major Haddad's forces said that two people from Al-Qulay'ah were injured.

Several shells fell after midnight on Hasbayya, the suburbs of Al-Ma'murah village in the Tyre area, and the suburbs of 'Arab Salim village in the An-Nabatiyah area, causing material damage only.

AL-ASAD CONFERS WITH 'ARAFAT, PLO OFFICIALS

JN211306 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 79 JN

[Text] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; PLO Executive Committee members Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, Abd al-Musin abu Mayzar, Talal Naji and Khalil al-Wazir; and Fatah Central Council members Salah Khalaf, Muhammad Guanaym and Mahmud Abbas.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

During the meeting, the general situation in the Arab region as well as the situation in Lebanon and developments in the Palestinian cause were reviewed. Yasir 'Arafat explained the results of his recent Arab contacts. The talks also dealt with Syrias efforts to restore calm to Palestinian-Libyan relations.

AL-ASAD ADDRESSES BAITH PARTY REGIONAL CONGRESS

JN221812 Damascus Comestic Service in Arabic 1525 GMT 22 Dec 79 JN

[Speech delivered by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening session of the seventh Baith party regional congress at Al-Fayha Hall in Damascus--live]

[Excerpts] Comrades: In my capacity as the Baith Party secretary general, I am pleased to welcome the members of the Central Committee of the National Progressive Front who, for first time, are attending the Syrian Baith Party regional congress. [applause] I am also pleased to welcome the members of the PLO Executive Committee and brother Chairman Yasir 'Arafat [applause], the committee with which we are cooperating and which we view as the sole and legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people.

The Palestine issue has been the axis of our struggle as a party and a country. It has also been the axis of discussion in all our congresses, without exception. We can say that every congress of the Baith party was one of Palestine [applause].

I deem it fit to send on behalf of this congress and all of you, greetings to our people in occupied Palestine, Golan and Sinai. [applause] We stress to our kinfolk there that we will continue as usual to adopt a firm and solid stand until our territory is liberated, our people are returned and our rights are regained. [applause]

I also welcome the representatives of the Egyptian national movement who are among us now. These are the people who are struggling with the masses of fraternal Egypt to rid that fraternal country of the capitulatory position in which As-Sadat put it.

Comrades: Our congress convenes after the passing of 4 years since our sixth regional congress convened. These 4 years abounded with work, developments and events, particularly on the pan-Arab level and its Arab arena. Some of these events were happy, events which contributed to activating the broad pan-Arab hopes. Some of the happy events did not last long and some others did not see light. Some events were tragic and were historic in being tragic, foremost of which was the as-Sadat-Israeli peace and Egypts departure from the Arab struggle trench to that of Zionism and its base: Israel. This took place at a time when Israel occupies wide stretches of Arab land and evicts Arab citizens, including Palestinians, Syrian and Egyptians.

At any rate, this scheme--the framework of which was drawn up at Camp David--was aimed at sweeping the Arab area and was to be imposed on the entire Arab nation so that Zionism and imperialism would achieve their interests and so that the Arabs would lose their interests and aspirations and would live in subjugation generation after generation.

The failure of the Camp David partners to impose their will constitutes a tremendous and great loss to some parties and a catastrophe and collapse to some other parties. This simply leads us to deduce that they will fight desparately to impose their plan and scheme on others, making use of all possible methods to impose their plan on those who oppose their scheme, and you were the first to oppose their scheme. They will pursue various courses to put pressure on those who oppose them in an attempt to defeat the opposers who weaken them so that the scheme will prevail.

The Camp David partners have failed to impose their will and scheme. They searched for agents and found them. Those agents have a weak affiliation with the issue of the homeland and nation, with the concepts of the homeland and nation and with the slogans and sanctities of the nation and homeland. The Camp David partners drew up plans for those agents and instructed them to implement what was planned for them. This, comrades, explains the suspect activities going on in the Arab arena in general and inside our country in particular.

I must mention those who are harming religion in the name of religion. They are fighting religion in the name of religion. I say that they constitute two sides: One is misguided, unaware of its dangerous road. This side is ignorant of the end and the dangers concerning religion and country. We have tried and will continue to try to maintain our responsibilities to enlighten this side about what benefits religion and values and about what harms religion and values.

The other side is the deluding side, which knows where to go and what it wants. This is an agent and cowardly side, which has departed from this land and from our concepts held throughout our long history as a people and as a nation. This side is far removed from every relation and knows that it is using religion to achieve objectives far removed from religion and patriotism. These aims are in the service of its foreign master, which planned for it and gave it instructions. This side should be held fully responsible.

At the time when we are seeking to direct all our efforts to confront the Israeli occupation of our land in Palestine, Golan and Sinai and to confront the big plots, and at the time when we do not want to use force against anyone, it should be clear that we will use force and resort to violence in the proper way and in the right time if the deluders are not brought back to the right path and if their suspicious and vicious moves, which are linked with Camp David, continue. [applause]

Comrades: We will continue to defend our historical values and our historical spiritual heritage. We will continue to unwaveringly defend Islam against Islam's enemies, who are embodied in this misguided agent clique of the Muslim brothers. We will continue to struggle and defend Islam against its enemies and adversaries, represented in the heretics of the Muslim brothers--the heretics of this age--who have resorted to killing and acts of sabotage. They have thus deviated from Islam and the values of every religion. They resorted to killing the people and sabotaging the people's institutions. This group has totally placed itself at the disposal of world Zionism. They are spies, sincere to their masters.

The Muslim brothers are void of conscience and value. They killed scholars, men of religion and toiling workers in this country.

I am only giving examples so that our people and nation will know who those criminals, traitors, renegades and heretics are. After all this, they desecrate Islam by their name as they desecrated it with their acts. They call themselves the Muslim brothers. May God curse them and their Islam. [applause] We shall not have one Islam with them. They are murderers of Islam and Muslims. They are traitors of Islam and Muslims.

Such acts, using science, logic and reason, are in the interests of Israel and the As-Sadat-Israel accord. Any other deduction would be complete negligence. Analysis and deduction are a scientific law to which all people and nations resort. Under this law, decisions and policies are made.

The matter is not now one of deduction since a few days ago, some of the Muslim brothers admitted their direct connection with Israel. We have the evidence now, and when the investigation is completed, we will acquaint the people with the results.

Comrades: As you all know, there is a Muslim Brotherhood Organization in the Arab homeland. I can say that many of them [Muslim brothers] disagree over such acts. I say this and I do not know any one of them.

In Syria, many who were members of the Muslim Brotherhood organization rejected and disavowed these acts. But the criminal and agent clique is struggling to drag others into its position. We understand religion and Islam as love, but they understand it as grudge. We take it as patriotism, and they take it as agentry to foreigners. We take it as honesty and nobility, and they take it as treachery and viciousness. We take it as progressive, and they take it as reactionary and backwardness. We take it as socialism, we understand Islam as socialism [applause], and they take it as exploitation, feudalism and capitalism. This is the main problem. We take Islam as Islam and they take it as capitulation. This is the real problem between us. [applause]

Reactionary slogans and delusions have fallen forever, and there is life only for progress and socialism in this country. [applause]. The masses of workers and peasants as well as the masses of the educated and the soldiers are the owners of the revolution. These masses are those who produce and feed. They are the blood which was shed in defense of this nation. They are the rightful owners to lead this country in the way they want.

Comrades: We will continue to rally around the masses and to depend on them. These masses--which stood on the side of the October War, the corrective movement, development and the popular democratic trend--these masses are our pillars and source of strength and victory. [applause]

Comrades: You and the bases of our party have practiced a big democratic process in the last few days. You were elected as representatives for these struggling bases, which are shouldering the biggest responsibilities, particularly at this fateful stage of the history of our nation. You came as representatives of these bases--bases of our Ba'th Party--which represent the stumbling block and solid barrier vis-a-vis every kind of conspiracy against the issue of the people and nation. You came as a result of elections in which the party bases expressed their will. You are now the highest part and political authority in this country. You have come to discuss everything that concerns our people and nation and to make important and useful decisions to consolidate the march of our party and country. I am confident that every comrade will exert his strenuous efforts to render this congress a success.

'Arafat Address

JN222015 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1623 GMT 22 Dec 79 JN

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, at the opening session of the seventh Syrian Ba'th Party regional congress at Al-Fayha' Hall in Damascus--live]

[Excerpts] Mr President, brother strugglers: It is no coincidence for us to be invited to this congress. It is no coincidence for us to meet together here in Damascus, revolutionary Damascus, Arab Damascus, Damascus of Hafiz al-Asad, the hero of steadfastness. [applause] What unites it is something great. Its roots go back to the time when the Ba'th Party emerged to raise the mission of the Arab nation in its slogan: A single Arab nation with an immortal mission.

You will allow me, and my brother the president will allow me to say that at this time and in these circumstances in which the Arab nation is facing this Zionist challenge to its culture, the main objective of the Ba'th Party mission is the restoration of Palestine and all Arab territory--Golan, Sinai and Palestine. Indeed, Mr President, O hero of steadfastness and confrontation, this is how we understand the Ba'th Party mission--so that the Arab nation will stay proud and dignified and so that we can say this land is Arab, Arab, Arab.

Yes, it is Arab and will remain Arab despite all the stabs dealt to the nation, the last of which was the stab from Camp David, the Camp David troika. Those who met in Camp David thought that they could make our nation bow or surrender. My brother president will recall that when the situation became critical, we met in Tripoli. We asked: Who would join in a front with the Palestinian resistance? President al-Asad said: I will join in a front with the Palestinian revolution.

They thought that having pushed As-Sadat to Camp David and Jerusalem, they could cow the region, contain it and then control it. Thus we met and formed the front of steadfastness and confrontation. True, we are five sides in this front, but we constitute an overwhelming current in our Arab nation. This overwhelming current chose Syria of Hafiz al-Asad to be the base of steadfastness and confrontation. It is this overwhelming current which controls the region, not the logic of defeatist As-Sadat or Camp David, nor is it the logic of the Camp David troika, which wanted and still wants to make the region submit and capitulate.

I tell them from here, from Syria--the heart of steadfastness and confrontation--that the Arab region will not bow or surrender. This region and this Arab nation will defy and fight until victory, victory, victory. [applause]

Yes brothers, it is not a coincidence at all that we are meeting here. It is also not a coincidence that the flag of the Ba'th Party is also the flag of the Palestinian revolution. [applause] We know, brothers, that the road is long and tough. I am saying this because I know that they are concentrating on Syria to make it bow. When Egypt left the Arab arena temporarily, they concentrated on Syria. This is because if Syria is cowed, then that would be the end of steadfastness and confrontation and also the end of our Arab nation. Therefore, I say that they will not be able to cow Syria or impose the logic of Camp David and capitulation on Syria. They will also not be able to impose the logic of surrender and Camp David on the Palestinian revolution.

I tell the leader of steadfastness and confrontation: We are together in this struggle trench against imperialism and reaction so that our Arab nation will stay proud and dignified and so that we will regain Golan and Sinai. We will regain Sinai by the Nile waters, but by blood.

We will raise the flags of our Arab nation, we will raise the flag of our Arab nation, we will raise the flag of the Palestinian revolution over Jerusalem. Let Begin hear this. O Begin, there will not be 22 flags over Arab embassies. There will be only one flag, the flag of the Arab revolution, the flag of the Palestinian revolution, the flag of our Arab nation over Jerusalem; it will be the flag of those armies which will march to liberate Jerusalem.

Brothers, the mirage of capitulation, which they thought would dominate the region, has gone. The region is now dominated by one logic, that of steadfastness and confrontation. From here, from Damascus--the heart of Arabdom--the force and armies will move to raise the flag of our Arab nation over Jerusalem. It is a revolution until victory.

Further Speeches

[JN222109 Editorial Report JN] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 1642 GMT on 22 December continues its live relay of the opening session of the seventh Ba'th Party regional congress, after carrying the speeches by President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

The next to speak is Fuad at-Tuhami, on behalf of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping abroad. He greets the congress and says "The fundamental forces for the confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary schemes against our region are four: steadfast Syria, the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Patriotic Front and the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist forces." He adds that "the steadfastness of these forces is the beginning of the right path to defeat and foil the imperialist plot."

Next, speeches are given on behalf of the Syrian National Progressive Front Parties, as follows:

Fawzi Kayyali, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union Party in Syria, talking about the Arab status quo, describes it as "shameful and humiliating" in view of its "disruption, disagreement and fragmentation." He describes the October 1973 war with Israel and the Iranian Revolution in 1979 as the "two most important world events that have taken place in the last decade." He adds that those two events could have upset the balance of power in the region in favor of the Arabs "if the Arabs had known how to benefit from them."

Fayiz Ismail, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front and secretary general of the Socialist Unionist Party, after reviewing the circumstances under which this congress is being held, says the Arab people want clarity, firmness and revolutionary action on the part of the congress.

Abd al-Ghani Qannus, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front and secretary general of the Arab Socialist Party, says that instead of unified Arab efforts to confront the serious repercussions of the Camp David accords, "several Arab regimes have indulged in artificial differences and show-like stands, which are far from effective and real contributions to building Arab steadfastness." He calls on the conferees to have confidence in the masses and to guide the nation to safety.

Khalid Bakdash, member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front and secretary general of the Syrian Communist Party, after greeting the conferees and wishing them sucess, reviews the struggle of Syrian Communist Party. He adds: "Syria and all Arab national progressive forces realize that the battle we are waging calls for consolidation of the friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union--the great friend. These relations have become one of Syria's old national traditions. No regime, no matter how rightist it is, can sever these relations or drag Syria to the bandwagon of colonialism by means of false propaganda about the alleged Soviet danger." Continuing, he says: "World imperialism, particularly its leader--the United States--is receiving one blow after another, not only in Iran and the West Bank, but also in the Sahara." He further remarks: "The Iranian Revolution, which was greeted and supported by Syria first, is one of the biggest world events. Washington was content that by means of the tyrant shah and SAVAK, it would immortalize its control over the people, whom it considered submissive and oppressed. But the oppressed stood up unarmed and toppled the shah and the U.S. positions. They have even shaken the pillars of U.S. imperilist policy on the world level."

Isam al-Qadi, regional secretary of the unified Palestinian organization in Syria, says that acts of criminal sabotage in Syria did not take place due to the internal situation, but were the result of efforts aimed at subjugating Syria and liquidating the Ba'th Party.

Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon, extends greetings and best wishes to the congress.

The master of ceremony reads greetings messages sent to the congress from the SED Central Committee, the MSZMP Central Committee, the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Polish United Workers Party and the Eritrean Liberation Front.

The opening session is then adjourned. President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat leave the hall. The live relay of the opening session ends at 1824 GMT.

MORE IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR LEBANON ARRIVE

NC251119 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 25 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 25 (AFP)--A new group of 51 Iranian volunteers arrived here early today from Tehran on their way to south Lebanon to "fight Zionism and imperialism", a reliable source said.

This brought to 253 the number of Iranian militants who have arrived in Syria in the past 10 days. They are staying in a Palestinian training camp here.

About 300 Iranians reportedly already have joined Palestinian guerrilla forces in south Lebanon.

ALGERIA

MINISTER DISCUSSES OPEC PLAN FOR THIRD WORLD BANK

LD221158 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Algiers, 22 December, APS--Belkacem Nabi, member of the Central Committee and Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries, returned to Algiers last night from Caracas via Madrid after representing Algeria at the 55th regular session of the OPEC Ministerial Council in the Venezuelan capital.

In a short press statement Belkacem Nabi referred to the results of the session and pointed to the Algerian proposal, backed by Venezuela, calling for the establishment of a Third World bank, a proposal which was endorsed. He said that we considered this decision a basic result and added that according to the final studies, the capital of this bank would be over $20 billion. He confirmed that by doing so, OPEC recorded its great interest in the problems facing the Third World, economic cooperation, development and solidarity among developing countries. The minister recalled the session's recommendation to the recapitalisation of OPEC's special fund with $1.5 billion on top of the $800 million approved at the Geneva session last June. With all these contribution which exceed $2.5 billion, OPEC's special fund reaches a total of $4 billion. This total sum is only a transitional and urgent measure of financial cooperation in expectation of the setting up of a premanent mechanism for this cooperation, and from here the importance of the Algerian proposal of a bank becomes prominent.

As regards oil prices, Nabi said that we did not wish to make the problem of prices confined to a narrow context and that prices over the coming 3 months would be determined by the market. Here the minister said that Algerian oil would be priced at $30 a barrel. Finally, Nabi expressed satisfaction at the fact that the next OPEC session would be held in Algeria in (June) and he said that it is an honor for Algeria to host it, and will work for its success.

LIBYA

OFFICIAL DENIES REPORT ON MEDIATION OF RIFT WITH PLO

LD231456 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 23 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--A spokesman for the Arab Liaison Bureau at the General Secretariat of the General Peoples Congress denied the existence of any mediation between Libya and the Palestinian resistance.

In a statement to our correspondent, he said that all news about this mediation is groundless. He said that the so-called dispute between Libya and the Palestinian resistance is in fact a dispute between the Palestinian masses and Fatah's leadership.

He affirmed that the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will be the true supporter of the armed Palestinian struggle for the restoration of all usurped rights.

AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN DISCUSSES PALESTINIAN ISSUE

JN240846 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Dec 79 pp 1, 13 JN

[By Ahmad Salamah]

[Text] Libyan ambassador in Amman Salih as-Sanusi has asserted that serious attempts are being exerted to contain the Libyan-Palestinian crisis.

At a press conference the ambassador held at the Libyan embassy in Amman yesterday evening, he said that the Libyan and Palestinian revolutions are in harmony and have identical views. He added that the Libyan revolution is committed to supporting and backing the Palestinian resistance both morally and materially. The Libyan revolution, he said, will not change its stand, which holds the PLO to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Libyan ambassador asserted that recent differences, which have been distorted and exploited by hostile media, were merely differences of opinion. The Libyan revolution intends to uphold and support the Palestinian struggle. In his reply to journalists' questions, the Libyan ambassador said: I assure you that the existing crisis between Libya and the Palestinian revolution is only a transient one and will be contained through the efforts exerted by the Libyan and Palestinian leadership and the Arab brothers.

Asked about the Palestinian revolutionary committees proposed by Libya, which constitute a direct intervention in the internal affairs of the Palestinian revolution, the Libyan ambassador said: The purpose of proposing these committees is to support the Palestinian struggle at this dangerous stage.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI FORECASTS CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP

JN231115 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 23 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Hasiheisa, 23 December--President Ja'far Numayri has stated that comprehensive changes in the political and executive leaderships will take place following the third national congress of the Sudanese Socialist Union in January in order to confront the new stage with a new, strong and sincere leadership. This was contained in the speech President Numayri delivered at a mass rally in Hasiheisa city yesterday. President Numayri is currently on a tour of Al-Jazirah Province which began last week and ends today.

Announces 'Election Program'

JN231846 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 23 December--President Numayri has announced that he is the sole candidate for the presidency of the Sudanese Socialist Union. In a speech today from Medani, the capital of the Sudanese Al-Jazirah Province, President Numayri proposed his program. He affirmed that national unity and reconciliation are vital aims which will not be relinquished and that there has been no retreat from the principle of placing power in the hand of the masses. President Numayri affirmed that Islam is the path to be followed and achieving victory for Islam is his aim. President Numayri pointed out that development is the fate of the May revolution, which is working for more development. In his election program, President Numayri mainly emphasized the expansion of health and education services, the diversification of sources of power and investment in the various Sudanese resources.

PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HOLDS 21 DEC NEWS CONFERENCE

TA211359 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 21 Dec 79 TA

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin answers correspondents and editors' questions in Bet Agron in Jerusalem; live]

[Text] [Shalom Rosenfeld, MA'ARIV] Prime Minister, honorable guests, Sirs, as a rule we are more zealous about a new tradition than an older one. This is the third year that we are having the annual lunch of the Israeli editors and their guests--also known in public as reliable sources or informed circles--with the prime minister, not as customary in the past, namely on 29 November, but on Hanukkah or thereabout. On 29 November 32 years ago, the people of Israel put its foot in the narrow crack created by the opening of contemporary history, hoping that upon the renewal of our political independence we will enter the parlor of free and sovereign peoples as an equal among equals. It was only yesterday that we heard Israel's UN ambassador, Prof Yehuda Blum, summing up our status in this United Nations organization, especially against the background of the UN General Assembly's recent vote in which Zionism has been stained with the mark of racism in addition to the novel mark of hegemonism. This shows that not only are we not welcome in the parlor, but there is also a desire that the heavy iron door be closed on the foot still stuck in that crack after 32 years. There is a little tragic irony here that this same international organization, which was once characterized by one of our British colleagues as an organization continually deteriorating to the status of the most corrupt and corrupting organization in the history of human creation, puts the people and State of Israel in a situation where it has to add to its already existing matrices [medadim] the matrix of isolation as well. We have thus been, as it were, brought back from the present time to those days, the days of the Maccabees who wanted to boost and arouse strength of spirit when it seemed to have faded, to restore faith when it appeared faith had nothing to rely on, to create hope when many were about to despair. Thus, when for a moment we cast a backward glance to the wonders of the distant past, and when our fears and concerns relate to a future which may stand beyond time, we are sitting down here with the prime minister of the State of Israel, Mr Menahem Begin, to ask for his answers to the questions which trouble us. The procedure of this news conference will be that colleagues will pose questions, each will be asked to go to the microphone, and introduce himself and the communications medium he represents. The prime minister will open with a few remarks. Later, Yosi 'Abadi from IDF Radio will begin the series of questions.

[Begin] Mr Chairman, gentlemen, I am happy that on the last day of Hanukkah we can hold this meeting justly called traditional by the chairman. The tradition, though new, is a positive one and I hope it will become an annual practice. The chairman mentioned the recent resolution passed at the UN. According to reports in my possession--and I would like to transmit them to you--this is very characteristic: The resolution has not been mentioned by a single word, either in the U.S. press or in the U.S. communications media. The communications media of U.S. public opinion--and I assume in other parts of the world as well--simply disregard these resolutions. We should not do this. We have therefore made a decision stating that whoever suppoorted this conclusion--according to which Zionism, the liberation movement of the Jewish people--and those who learned history know this--one of the most wondrous and humanitarian liberation movements in human history, is like the racism of which our people has been and is a primary victim--has brought disgrace upon himself. We had to say this, both to ourselves and to others.

However, this defilement by the United Nations justly mentioned by the chairman, has resulted in world public opinion simply ceasing to be interested either in the discussions held by this organization or the resolutions passed by it.

We shall learn from this. There is an automatic majority in the UN organization. The Arab and communist countries and part of the Third World combine together--thus achieving a two-thirds majority--and are able to pass any resolution they please. Our capable representative, Dr Blum, said they may someday adopt a resolution against philately [word in English] or anything else, according to the caprice possessing the leader of this automatic majority. No matter, we shall overcome, we have overcome.

The Jewish people has seen such phenomena in its history--it does not want to be a people dwelling alone [verse taken from the Bible, Numbers, chapter 23, verse 9]. It has enemies and therefore needs allies. These days--this I can also tell you on the basis of reliable reports--the free countries understand the State of Israel, its situation, its problems and its position better than before what is termed the Islamic Revolution. They understand whom and what we face when 'Arafat clearly announces he is Khomeyni's ally. Everyone remembers the famous saying: "Tell me who your friend is and I will tell you who you are. This saying applies to both of them. We of course will ask for allies, and this defilement will not cause us to despair. We shall face up to and overcome the difficulties before us. This is our faith. We draw it from the distant past and from the near past. We will therefore express our complete faith in our guaranteeing the future of our children and grandchildren in Eretz Yisra'el. The people of Israel will live as a free people in its land for ever and ever. I am now waiting for your questions.

[Yosi 'Abadi, IDF Radio] Mr Prime Minister, Egypt has announced its intention to set up an embassy with a very reduced staff in Tel Aviv. The preparations in Egypt for the establishment of relations with Israel on 26 January have in fact not yet begun. Should Israel not be worried in the wake of these indications which attest to the Egyptian intention to have limited normalization?

[Begin] I think that the issue you have mentioned will be on the agenda. This proves that the dates regarding what is termed the establishment of normal relations between Israel and Egypt will be adhered to. Of course, we cannot determine how many people will compose the Egyptian Embassy's staff. However, it seems to us that the proposal, in the form it was presented, raises some questions, particularly regarding our representation. I will resumably raise this question in my talks with President as-Sadat when I meet him in the second week of January.

[Hanna Zemer, DAVAR] If we are to stay on the sphere of foreign relations, Mr Prime Minister--how do you regard the U.S. intention to supply massive quantities of arms to both Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and the impact of this intention on Israel's strategic balance in comparison with the entire area?

[Begin] According to data in my possession, the decisions have not yet been made. However, clarifications and plans are being made. The problem is a serious one. We are energetically discussing it and making the distinction between the two questions [arms for Egypt and arms for Saudi Arabia] since this is called for by the situation.

[Noah Mozes, YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to know your reaction to Mr Moshe Dayan's idea published in our newspaper today regarding the cancelling or the abolition of the military government and the implementation of the autonomy at once in a unilateral manner.

[Begin] Dear Mr Mozes, you read YEDI'OT AHARONOT this morning and, perhaps, you already read part of the paper yesterday. I admit that I have not yet had the time to read my friend Moshe Dayan's interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT. However, if there is such a proposal, then I will express my opinion that such a proposal does not conform to the Camp David accords. We signed the Camp David accords and, in my opinion, we should honor the agreement. This is a matter not for unilateral action but for agreement. Negotiations on the agreement are being conducted. There are difficulties, but this is absolutely natural. We should not be surprised by them, but hope that the agreement is fulfilled. No, I am not in favor of a unilateral act. I am for fulfilling agreements. Egypt and Israel signed in Washington, following debates which lasted 13 days and nights at Camp David, an agreement composed of two parts. The first part concerns the peace treaty. We signed this treaty. Undoubtedly, it constituted a turning point in the history of the Middle East. A state of war with the strongest and largest Arab country came to an end and peace has been and will be created. There will be peaceful relations and cooperation between both countries, as all of us hope for.

Regarding the second part [of the Camp David accords]: There is a letter signed by President as-Sadat and myself addressed to the U.S. President according to which we have to conduct negotiations in the course of one year on the implementation of autonomy for the Arab inhabitants in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, including all the other details as specified in the second part of the Camp David accords. We must fulfill the rule that agreements must be honored, and we will act according to this rule.

[Shim'on Schiffer, Jerusalem Radio] Mr Prime Minister, you have already mentioned the issues expected to be discussed during your meeting with President as-Sadat. Could you specify what are your expectations of the meeting you will hold with President as-Sadat in Aswan?

[Begin] All the problems connected to the Egyptian-Israeli relations and certainly the negotiations on the autonomy. We will conduct at least two personal meetings and, perhaps, even three personal talks according to the plan submitted to me yesterday. Therefore, we will have enough time to discuss all the questions on the agenda regarding the relations between both countries.

[Moshe Zaq, MA'ARIV] Mr Prime Minister, you have just said that the world now understands Israel's position better. Is this an abstract or a practical understanding? I will explain my question by asking another question. At the time, before you set out on your first meeting with President Carter, you expressed the wish to give port and airport services to the U.S. Army. Is this proposal still valid? Is the United States ready to use Israel's good services for its strategic needs in the Middle East?

[Begin] Allow me a slight correction: I did not express the wish but the readiness that, in case the United States asks us for what is called rendition of services at Haifa port to the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean Sea--I said that I did not think the Israeli Government would be opposed to such a proposal. Such a request has not been submitted to us. Therefore, we did not discuss it. I do not think that my remarks are within the abstract sphere only. I assume that they constitute a foundation for resolutions which I hope will be made and which will strengthen Israel.

[Marcel (Sagif), Israeli Arab Television] Mr Prime Minister, what will be the central issue which you will discuss with the Egyptian president during your visit? Will the issue of the settlements constitute a central point? Another question, with your permission: Will the position adopted by Egypt regarding Israel and Zionism in the United Nations be discussed?

[Begin] I will not initiate any discussion of the settlements with President as-Sadat. As far as I am concerned, this is a very simple problem. Any Jew has the natural right to purchase land, to build a house and to settle in Eretz Yisra'el. I emphasize: a natural right. However, if President as-Sadat wants to discuss the question with me, he will do it, it is his prerogative. I will tell him our position. The same holds true regarding the other question you posed to me.

As I have already said, I assume that we will discuss all the questions on the agenda regarding the relations between both nations. An example was mentioned here regarding the embassies. I will certainly raise the problem, both about the (?ways) and the composition. There are problems regarding the normalization of transportation on land, sea and air. This question will presumably also be raised. On his part, President as-Sadat will also raise questions. We have already proved to each other that we are capable of holding friendly discussions even if there are differences of opinion between us. They do not annul the warm relations existing between us. Well, this is the reason why I am leaving for Aswan, where we will hold two or three personal meetings in which we will discuss all the problems that each one of us decides to raise.

[Mark Gefen, 'AL HAMISHMAR] Mr Prime Minister, about 1 and 1/2 years ago you complained about the malfunctioning of the government and you promised to amend it. In your opinion, has the situation been amended? On the same issue, I would like to ask you: What is your opinion regarding Deputy Prime Minister Ehrlich's proposal to return all the portfolios to you so that you can redistribute them? Maybe such a move could help you to fulfill your promise.

[Begin] The end of your question is very original. Well, as I see it, Mr Ehrlich did not submit such a proposal. He said that such a proposal might be made in the course of a meeting with me. I do not think we will reach that point. Ehrlich has to deliver to me the Liberal Party's position. Today Ehrlich is in Tel Aviv and we could not hold a meeting. I hope that at the beginning of next week we will hold a meeting. I hope that at the beginning of next week we will hold a meeting. I am asking not to exaggerate the tragedy of the situation. There is an argument within the party. Of course, I will listen to the remarks of my friend, Simha Ehrlich. However, I will frankly answer the first part of your question, which wasnot accompanied by a sarcastic remark expressing an exceptional sense of humor.

I want to state that all those issues I spoke about have not been set right, particularly the issue of leaks and mutual criticism by members of the Cabinet. I am expressing my deep sorrow over it. I think that all the members of the Cabinet, including myself, should make an effort to amend the situation.

[Yona Kohen, HATZOFE] There is a declaration by the prime minister and the government that the evacuation of our settlements from the Sinai will not constitute a precedent regarding our settlements in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Is this declaration strengthened or weakened in the wake of developments in those places? Is it not necessary to reach a legal and judicial solution without annexation--there is a [government] decision on the issue--and is anything being done in this direction?

[Begin] I do not think there is a need to use other words than: It remains in effect--the word annexation should not be applied to Eretz Yisra'el, one annexes only foreign land and not one's motherland; such an expression is not appropriate to Eretz Yisra'el--however, I want to emphasize my words: Whatever happened at the Sinai approaches does not and will under no condition constitute a precedent regarding Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

[Unidentified journalist] [Several words indistinct] regarding the autonomy, Mr Chairman?

[Shalom Rosenfeld, MA'ARIV] For the time being, let us have another round of questions, each journalist will pose one question.

[Dov Yudovsky, YEDI'OT AHARONOT] Mr Prime Minister, are you prepared to give us an assessment of the solution of the Elon More problems and has the Cabinet set a concrete date to end this problem [singular and plural use of 'problem' as heard]?

[Begin] Yes. The Cabinet has set a date. Work is being carried out day and night at the new site to which the Elon More settlers are to move, but this week a supernatural force has intervened and the rains have turned into a real obstacle. They are welcome rains and we are all happy that they fell, but the work was made much more difficult there because the rain has made the ground very muddy. However, the decision stands. Of course, no objective person will object to the intervention of what is called a supernatural force, should it hamper works.

[Elimelekh Ram, Israeli Television] Mr Prime Minister, could you, perhaps, confirm today that Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Shamir is your candidate for the post of foreign minister?

[Begin] Well, Mr Ram, on this issue and on others I have to meet with the committee elected by the Liberal Party, which includes five members. They will meet with me next week, I presume. Please do not try to make me stumble over questions prior to this meeting. I must first meet and consult my colleagues from the Liberal Party who also want to discuss this matter with me.

['Ovadia Danon, AL-ANBA] Mr Prime Minister, there is a peace agreement between us and Egypt. The normalization process is progressing--albeit slowly. Hence, the relations are more or less normal. The question is why, then, are we objecting to supplying Egypt with new U.S. arms?

[Begin] I have already replied to this question and I have nothing to add. The entire problem of armament in the Middle East is very serious because various elements are participating in this process: the Soviet Union, Europe and the United States as well. We must observe the situation with our eyes open and we must do what we have to do; I shall say no more.

We want to maintain peace with Egypt and deepen the understanding between us and our cooperation with them. Therefore, I have also made the distinction between the two countries mentioned by Mrs Hanna Zemer and said that it was obligatory.

[Yitzhaq Heldesheimer, SHE'ARIM] Mr Prime Minister, what will be the fate of immigration? some time ago, you proposed the establishment of a united authority for immigration and absorption. This is a less ambitious question, but in my opinion it is no less important. Later there was a regression in this matter, namely, no single authority was established to operate under the auspices of the Jewish Agency, as the Horev committee had recommended.

This week, several top scientists from the Soviet Union claimed that in their opinion the lack of efficient handling of absorption could bring about an almost total cessation of immigration from the Soviet Union. They maintain that the only solution would be the establishment of one singular body which would handle both immigration and absorption.

[Begin] First, good news to all: Last year the rate of immigration increased. As to the difficulties of absorption--of course they exist, but I have not changed my view about the need for one body, which I have proposed: a national administration for the absorption of immigration comprising [representatives of] the Absorption Ministry and the Jewish Agency's Absorption Department. The directives for action would be given by the director of the Jewish Agency's Absorption Department. For the moment, this proposal has not been accepted, but I continue to support the establishment of a unified authority.

As for the specific complaints which you mentioned, today I talked with the absorption, housing and construction minister, since I had heard such a complaint. He assured me that not only are efforts being made, but steps have also been taken to alleviate this entire problem. He will also present me with figures at next Sunday's Cabinet session.

[Live coverage of Prime Minister Begin's news conference ends as foreign editors are given the floor, presumably as the 1200 GMT news is about to begin, and coverage is returned to the studio]

Questions on Begin's Health, Likud

TA211627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 21 Dec 79 TA

[Portion of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's 21 December news conference with newspaper editors not carried by the live 211130 GMT IDF Radio broadcast; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin] If anyone deals with my health, I have only to be grateful to him, and I am deeply thankful for this obsession; I hail those who deal with it. Tell me, Mr Schiffer, how do I look today? [laughter] Take a look at me, listen to me. Thank God, blessed by the Lord everyday. It is true, I was once ill, but for heavens' sake, people are sitting here. I can ask them: Were they never sick even once in their lives, and have they not recovered afterwards? And after they have recovered did they not tend to their business or even increase their activity? And people were concerned about their health and asked questions? Well, I accept this with love, because I fulfill the role of prime minister. Surely the citizens of Israel want their prime minister to be healthy. So, I thank them. Thank you very much, my health is very good.

[Schiffer] Another question had to do with the fight for the succession which is apparently underway in the prime minister's party. "In the elections, will you also head the Likud?" Mr Begin was asked.

[Begin] That you should ask the Likud. But seriously, to answer you: You read about the Diadochite wars [wars among generals]. I am serving in accordance with the vote of confidence given my by the public in the elections. I was a candidate for premiership during the election campaign, and the government is serving in accordance with the confidence of the Knesset which it enjoys, and as long as that confidence continues, we will all continue to serve in our jobs, myself included. Everything depends on the Knesset's confidence and as far as I personally am concerned, on the confidence of my colleagues. Thank God, this confidence exists.

Further Details

TA221954 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Dec 79 TA

[Excerpts] [Arye Tzimuqi, YEDI'OT AHARONOT] In your meeting with the U.S. Jewry leaders 5 months ago, you proposed a compromise to curb the dropping out process. You also granted a 3-month suspense period. Now 5 months have passed, the suspense period is over and there is no progress. My question is: Would you be prepared to enter into a confrontation with the Jewish leaders in the United States should they reject your compromise?

[Begin] Dear Mr Tzimuqi, what would such a confrontation give us? The problem should be solved, not fought over. I agree with you that to date the problem has not been solved. It is a very serious problem. One should also understand all the complications involved. We will try to solve it with understanding. Very soon we will hold a meeting with our friends from the United States. We will raise this problem and we hope to solve it. This is one of the most serious problems of the people of Israel today, I emphasize this. But just as the problem is difficult, its solution is also difficult.

[Gid'on Samet, HA'ARETZ] Mr Begin, do you see signs of increasing national feelings among the Arab population of Judaea and Samaria? If so, are you concerned about them? Before the elections, after them, have these feelings become stronger? I am referring to feelings in terms of creating a Palestinian entity as the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria regard them. (?Do you believe) it would be possible to fight such a development and try to ward it off?

[Begin] I would like to comment on this expression of "a Palestinian feeling" coming out of the mouth of a member of our nation. Why do we repeat the usage of the common coinage which in itself carries a note of enmity towards ourselves? What is "Palestine?" When the British mandate was drawn up in the introduction it was stated that recognition has been granted to the historical link between the Jewish people and Eretz Yisra'el--Palestine. And this word, by means of historical paradox, has become an element of hostility toward us. Do we have to repeat that expression?

True, we do have problems in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. I would like to tell you that relatively speaking (and if you will remember, you will admit this) there were much less quiet periods than the last 2 years. I would further wish to add that this does not mean that the murderous organization, called in poor Hebrew "the PLO," is not trying to harm us, it only means that our defense forces are succeeding in preventing many terrorist attempts. And in the last few months, not only have we discovered many devices which could have caused loss of lives, but also complete caches. Thus, really, we are maintaining peace and quiet. However, there were days where there were real events leading to bloodshed as a matter of everyday routine in Judaea and Samaria. Now there are some demonstrations, but let us not exaggerate. There are developments, there is a strengthening in our ranks as well. There is more suprevision, and as I said, success in preventive measures, since the whole point is to prevent attacks. This is far more important than reacting to them, even though, sometimes, when there is an incident, you must prove that you are not defenseless. We, for our part, are not adherents of the philosophy of retribution. The main thing is to prevent bloodshed, and we deal with this day and night--I mean our national defense services.

[Shalom Rosenfeld, MA'ARIV] Does this apply to Israeli targets abroad, too?

[Begin] Yes, definitely. But of course there will not be a responsible and realistic person whom would tell you that it is possible to guarantee absolute 100 percent accident-proof immunity. No, this is impossible. But the defense forces are making a supreme effort, and are succeeding to a large degree. The emerging feelings--we see them. Will we be impressed by them, submit to them? And if someone advocates the establishment of a state which they call Palestine, will we accept that demand? The answer is simple: This would be a danger to the very existence of the State of Israel and we will therefore not accept it.

[Shalom Rosenfeld, MA'ARIV] Before the very short second round, I would like to present a question. For 2 or 3 days now, Major Haddad has been warning that a group of the Iranian volunteers has already arrived in southern Lebanon. Do we have information on that?

[Begin] We do not have authorized confirmation, we only have rumors, reports that several dozen--in two or three groups--have reached Syria and tried to enter into Lebanon. However, I would like to say that even though there is no confirmation, we are following the events and if indeed the Iranians come as 'Arafat's allies, I think the State of Israel will know how to handle this danger.

CABINET DISCUSSES AUTONOMY, NORMALIZATION WITH EGYPT

TA231235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Dec 79 TA

[Excerpt] After hearing reports from the interior minister and the director general of the Foreign Ministry, the Cabinet today discussed the autonomy negotiations and the normalization with Egypt.

Our political correspondent notes that a large group of ministers is suspicious of Egypt's desire to fully implement the normalization with Israel. The ministers rejected the proposal raised by the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs to set up liaison offices in Nabulus and Gaza. Minister Burg told our political correspondent that he was confident that Egypt would fulfill its part of the commitments in the peace treaty, including the normalization. The interior minister pointed out that, in his report to the Cabinet, he had said that there would soon be two rounds of talks of the autonomy working groups. The ministerial committee on the autonomy negotiations will be convened in a few days for a 1-day meeting to discuss the continuation of the negotiations.

Further Details

TA231530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The Cabinet decided to include Ministers Zvulun Hammer and Moshe Nissim in the ministerial defense committee. Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz will also regularly participate in the committee's meetings in the future. Our political correspondent explains that these ministers were coopted to the committee following the argument between Ministers Shostak and Hurvitz as to who will represent the La'am faction on the committee. The ministerial defense committee will now consist of 11 ministers.

Israel's objection to Egyptian liaison offices in Nabulus and Gaza will be transmitted to the Egyptians in a coming meeting between their representatives and the Foreign Ministry's director general. The prime minister explained today that in the negotiations over the peace accords an Egyptian proposal to open an office in Gaza was rejected and we are therefore now opposed to the Egyptian request to open an office in Nabulus as well. Mr Begin noted the conclusions agreed on in the peace treaty will not be marred.

Our political correspondent notes that the defense minister is opposed to adopting decisions in the Cabinet on normalization issues prior to the Begin-As-Sadat Aswan summit. Our political correspondent adds that the head or the ministerial autonomy team, Dr Yosef Burg, believes that there are two major bones of contention between Israel and Egypt in the autonomy negotiations. One of the problems is the size of the administrative council that will be set up when the self-administration is established. The Egyptians want a large council, a sort of parliament, while Israel insists on appointing only 11 people to this council. The other disputed issue concerns the powers that will be granted to the autonomy institutions.

KNESSET REJECTS NO CONFIDENCE MOTION 25 DEC

TA251714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The Knesset has rejected the no confidence motion regarding the crisis in agriculture by a majority of 60 Coalition Knesset members. Forty-four Knesset members voted for the no confidence motion. Kalman Kahana of Po'ale Agudat Yisra'el abstained. Submitting the no confidence motion, Knesset Member Yehezq'el Zakay said that in no sphere of the state's life was there such grave and rapid deterioration as in agriculture.

In reaction, Minister Ari'el Sharon said that anyone presenting agriculture as in a state of collapse was undermining agriculture and the farmers. The Knesset is now hearing dozens of objections to the abortion law amendment.

Approves Amendment to Abortion Law

TA251923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Clause V of the abortion law permitting abortions for social reasons has been definitely canceled. Fifty-five Knesset members voted for its cancellation, 50 voted against and 2 abstained.

Our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli notes that among the Coalition Knesset members, MK Seidel of the Likud voted against the amendment. Yosef Yaguri of the Likud abstained and Sara Doron of the Likud absented herself. Ehud Olmert did not participate in the voting although he was present in the hall. Among the Democrats, Ministers Yiga'el Yadin and Shmu'el Tamir voted against the government. As'ad Shafiq voted for the government and 'Aqiva Nof abstained. Menahem Hakchen of the Alinement, Yosef Tamir and Ze'ev Wertheimer of Shay and Hana Mwais of Hadash absented themselves. Moshe Shamir and Ge'ula Kohen of the Revival Party did not participate in the voting. Moshe Dayan voted against the government.

The [amendment to the] law was accepted with one reservation out of some 40 reservations which were put to a vote and rejected. The reservation, submitted by Knesset Members Arbeli-Almozlino, Grossman, Katz, Myoal and Tubi, determines that at least one woman will be a member of every committee approving abortions. This reservation was endorsed by a majority of 60 Knesset members against 18 negative votes. Among those supporting this reservation were some members of most factions of the Coalition.

INDIA

FRESH CRISIS EMERGES IN RULING ALLIANCE

BK211634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The ruling Lok Dal-Congress-U alliance at the center was under the brink of another crisis today with the remarks by Congress-U President Devraj Urs that his party is no longer committed to make Charan Singh prime minister after the Lok Sabha elections. This remark led to a sharp reaction from the Lok Dal, whose secretary, Vinay Kumar, told newsmen in New Delhi that it is difficult to continue the alliance under these circumstances.

The Congress-U leader's remark came at separate talks with newsmen at Patna Ranchi and Calcutta today. He said the Congress-U should not have entered into the alliance and joined the government. But now having done so his party cannot leave the government unless the prime minister so desires. Mr Urs maintained that Mr Chandrajit Yadav's defection and his induction into the Lok Dal was the main reason that led his party to issue a separate election manifesto.

In reply to a question, Mr Urs said that it is Charan Singh who is saying that there is no alliance. And when he says so, there is no alliance.

Asked about the possibility of his party joining hands with the Congress-I in forming a coalition at the center, Mr Urs said it will be decided after the election.

During his talks to newsmen in New Delhi, the Lok Dal secretary pointed out that the AICC-U [All India Congress Committee] at its Bangalore session had passed a resolution accepting Charan Singh as the leader with a common program and a common manifesto. He accused the Congress-U of going back on all these commitments. Mr Kumar said for all practical purposes, the alliance is now non-existent. However, he declined to comment on the continuance of the Congress-U ministers in the government adding that the matter is for the prime minister to decide.

Singh: Alliance Continues

BK220914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Lok Dal president, Mr Charan Singh, has said that the coalition government at the center will continue for the present despite the Congress-U president, Mr Urs', statement on the alliance. He was speaking to newsmen in Kota, Rajasthan. Commenting on Mr Urs' remarks that Congress-U was no longer committed to Mr Charan Singh's leadership for the elections, the Lok Dal president said his party will honor whatever commitments it made to support the Congress-U at the poll.

Asked whether Congress-U presence in his government has not become redundant in view of Mr Urs' statement, Mr Charan Singh replied there is no harm. There are hardly 10 days left [for the polls], he added.

Mr Charan Singh expressed his displeasure over the Congress-U leaders' negotiations with Mr Jagjivan Ram when they had an alliance with the Lok Dal. He said these parleys ended only when Mr Jagjivan Ram reportedly told the Congress-U leaders about his inability to join hands with them.

Later in a statement, Mr Charan Singh said that the former prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, also approved the arrest of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The files concerning Mrs Gandhi's arrest (?were processed) by the then law minister.

Mr Charan Singh said Mr Morarji Desai was kept informed at every stage and he had also approved the arrest.

Urs: Break 'Nothing New'

BK221334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Congress-U president, Mr Devraj Urs, has said that his party has no alliance with the Lok Dal, but only adjustment of seats in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections. Speaking in Calcutta, he said alliance exists now only for the limited functioning of the government at the center.

Commenting on the Lok Dal general secretary, Mr Vinay Kumar's, statement that the alliance has ceased to exist, Mr Urs told newsmen that there is nothing new about the announcement of the break of the alliance. Mr Urs said we are fighting the election on separate manifestos, flags and symbols. Where is the alliance, the Congress-U president asked.

Charan Singh Statement

BK230950 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Charan Singh, has said the Congress-U ministers in his cabinet would not be expelled. Talking to newsmen in Kota in Rajasthan, Charan Singh said there will be no reshuffling of his cabinet. He said there was no alliance between the Congress-U and the Lok Dal but it was a mere agreement between the two parties to contest the Lok Sabha elections on one symbol and a common manifesto which had been violated by the Congress-U.

Charan Singh alleged that the Congress-U leaders were holding secret negotiations with the Janata leader, Jagjivan Ram, while they continued their talks with the Lok Dal. He said while Congress-U President Devraj Urs had criticized Chandrajit Yadav of his joining the Lok Dal, he did not utter any word when two Congress ministers and 24 MP's joined the Congress-I.

Congress-U Remains in Coalition

BK230952 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Congress-U president, Devraj Urs, has said that his party members will continue to remain in the coalition ministry at the center because of the earlier commitment. But his party has decided to fight the elections alone and after the elections it is free to act on its own. He was talking to newsmen in Bhubaneshwar.

Mr Urs said that Mrs Gandhi cannot maintain stability in the country, as during her regime she destabilized 26 chief ministers in different states. Addressing a series of public meetings in several places in Orissa, he said that the people should take the coming election not merely as an election, but as a movement to contain the authoritarian forces and to fight the war against poverty.

Two Ministers Quit

BK221616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The two All India Anna-DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhgham] ministers at the center, Bala Pajanor and Sathiavani Muthu, have resigned from the Union cabinet. All India Radio's correspondent says this development, along with statements by leaders of the Lok Dal, the Congress-U and the Janata Party, indicate a likely shift in the political alinement on the eve of the forthcoming poll.

At a news conference in New Delhi, Jagjivan Ram indicated that his party is prepared to consider prospects of an understanding with the Congress-U if there is what he called any sensible proposal.

The Congress-U president, Devraj Urs, speaking in Calcutta, said his party's alliance with the Lok Dal now exists only for the limited functioning of the government at the center. The Lok Dal president, Charan Singh, says the coalition government at the center will continue for the present, but added there are only 10 days left before the elections. At a press conference in Bombay, the Janata Party chief, Chandra Shekhar, said that polarization of political forces in the country is still continuing.

The resignations of the two All India Anna-DMK ministers were announced at a press conference called by Bala Pajanor in Madras. He said Charan Singh had demanded their resignations since the All India Anna-DMK in its election manifesto had announced that it would support Jagjivan Ram as prime minister. Our correspondent says while speaking in Calcutta, Mr Urs searched upon the scope of his party's understanding with the Janata. He said he cannot say anything right now because they are in the middle of the election. But the AICC [All India Congress Committee] general secretary, Mrs Tarkeshwari Sinha, said all will depend on what she called pragmatic unity and the composition of parliament after the polls.

Chandra Shekhar's remarks on political polarization also carried a reference to the statement of Mr Urs on the Congress-U-Lok Dal relations. He said this also proves that a third force borne out of defections from the Janata Party will come to naught. Chandra Shekhar said in the present situation the choice before the people is between the forces represented by the Congress-I and the Janata Party. He said polarization will also compel the Congress-U and what he called other antiauthoritarian forces to join hands with the Janata Party. He said the fact that this polarization is in his party's favor is evident from the All India Muslim Front joining it.

Jagjivan Ram at a press conference said that if the Congress-U leaders campaigned for the Janata candidates, his party can consider their request for campaigning for the Congress-U candidates.

JAGJIVAN RAM APPEALS FOR VOTES FOR JANATA

BK221654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Dec 79 BK

[Election Broadcast by Janata Party leader Jagjivan Ram--recorded]

[Text] In a few days from now the people of our country will go to the polls to elect a new Lok Sabha, leading to the formation of a new government. I am speaking to you today to appeal to you that you may cast your vote in favor of the Janata Party. On behalf of that party, I promise to you a period of stability and security and a government of competence capable of handling the economic, social and political problems of the people. These problems are becoming more and more difficult every day and our prime minister, whose main concern appears to be to stick to the chair by making wild promises is distributing favors to one class or caste or another in the hope of gaining votes.

Let me say frankly that [words indistinct] an apology from elder political leaders, the people might well ask who elected the members of the Lok Sabha for 5 years, how it is that you are back for election in less than 3 years? It is true that the people gave a massive vote to the Janata Party; they gave their love and affection to our party, but we did not abdicate our responsibility. We were first sabotaged from within by the defectors and then these very defectors joined hands with other parties to prevent us from forming a new government. Never before has Indian politics witnessed such an [word indistinct] game. In a matter of months since the process of toppling the Janata Party started, the country has been brought to a sorry path.

Indeed, one could even say that we are at a grave moment in the history of our nationhood. All around we see signs of growing dispair; caste conflicts and communal troubles have intensified, threatening the cohesion of our society itself. Millions and millions of our people are on the verge of starvation and painful death as a result of severe drought in the large part of the country. But adequate concern for relief measures is wanting. The caretaker government looks to be unconcerned with the fate of these victims of drought. A whole region of India, the northeast, is going up in flames under the extent of regional conflicts with growing tension between the tribal and other people. Here is a problem which needs sympathetic handling because it can give a handle an opportunity [as heard] to foreign powers to fish in troubled water.

In the rest of the country, too, law and order is breaking down. Employment schemes, which had been launched by our government, are being allowed to slow down. The sixth plan itself has been sought to be cut down.

India's position in the world is being eroded. The performance, or rather the nonperformance, of this government in international affairs has not only made India insignificant but an object of ridicule. And what is the response? The present government has armed itself with the Preventive Detention Act which revives some of the provisions of the emergency, as if the problem of the country can be solved only by such laws. On the other hand, on the political spectrum we were told that the situation calls for reversion to the rules of the emergency days. Can anyone claim that major problems facing the country can be solved by laws which place a lot of power in the hands of the few people? If power is so concentrated, it soon degenerates into power for the gains of a few, not for the good of the people. The people cannot forget their past experience.

The answer does not lie in such shortcuts because there are no shortcuts to good governments. The real answer lies in restoring the norms and the ideals which were placed before us by Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Jayprakash Narayan. The answer lies in the capturing of the spirit of that era. It is under the leadership of Panditji [Nehru] that we developed a system of government dedicated to the ideals of public good and not personal power or the power of any particular group. In this vast country with great diversity, different groups and classes cannot prosper in conflict with each other. Therefore, the first task of the new Janata government will be to restore that of spirit of national cohesion and that spirit of a government for the good of the people and not for the power of the few. In this way it will seek to achieve genuine political affinity, respect for democratic rights of all the groups and classes, castes and regions and culture.

But such political stability needs a base, a foundation in economic stability, which means a strategy of economic growth to achieve stable and sustained improvement in the conditions of the people, which can overcome the crisis of economic insecurity in the lives of individuals or groups and of the nation as a whole. You might as well ask what is the proof of our competence to achieve such a stupendous task? What could the Janata do in a shorter spell of 2 years before the defectors began to play their final attack of sabotage assisted by other parties wanting to create confusion in order to recapture the lost power? I will cite only a few major examples: First of all, we restored the democratic freedoms which were taken away from the people during the emergency. We restored to our constitution those basic ideals which were cherished by the founding fathers of the nation--Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharal Nehru and Sardar Ballavbhai Patel.

On the economic front, we achieved an increase in per capita income which was much greater than the average of the previous 6 years, the price of rice was contained, our foreign exchange reserve nearly doubled, a long tenacious employment program, because employment is the key to all economic success and antyodaya [rural] schemes to rehabilitate lakhs of poorest sections. [sentence as heard]

I will not go on counting the achievements, but past achievements are to be viewed as only a stepping stone to further struggle, and the present generation has many a struggle ahead before we can say that we are on a firm road to the abolition of poverty and misery. The abolition of poverty and misery is a real task. Whether he is a poor brahmin or the poor chamar [low caste fellow] or the poor jat [a caste group], or the poor Muslim or Christian or Sikh or a poor tribal or a poor from north, south, east or west, all poor are the same. There is no time to set the village against the town or the town against the village or one religion against another or one caste against another. We have all to live in this country. There is no time to [word indistinct] one trying to grab the best for himself, or for a group or a caste or any other section to deprive another. For no one is safe, no one will really prosper as long as any section of the people remains poor and in misery, poverty and disease, for the struggles for existence are indivisible.

We have struggled against poverty, we have struggled to build a new India, an India of the days of Gandhi and Nehru. We have struggled against hunger and disease. We have struggled to bring dignity to the life of the people. This struggle too was indivisible. And if I invite you today to vote for the Janata Party that is only an invitation to join in that struggle. I do not want you to abdicate your right or entrust your destiny to one individual or group of individuals. No individual or group of individuals should be entrusted with absolute power because that is not the road to freedom but to slavery, and slaves do not expect masters to work for them. This election does not mean choosing new masters to whom people will be slaves. Beware that the hand [election symbol of Mrs Gandhi's party] that comes to you open for votes today should not become a fist to strike you tomorrow.

But enough of that. Let me come back to what I offer you on behalf of the Janata. I have said I invite you tonight in a common national struggle against the ills of our society and what I offer you is a platform for that struggle, a program of action.

I am [words indistinct] concrete steps to be taken besides restoring and continuing the program we had launched. These range from the most far-reaching land reforms, to the giving of the statutory status to the minorities commission, from the extension of the employment guarantee scheme to the development of nuclear energy, from the zonalization of rural labor to participation of workers in management, from the stability of prices at home to the restoration of India's rightful place in international forums. These and many more steps are listed in the manifesto, which also speaks of the manner in which the new social transformation is to be brought about.

But the basic point is that what we need at the moment is a government with a national outlook. A government which rises above narrow interests, a government which is concerned with the plight of the people and not with maintaining itself in power. A government which can once again bring the country together. A government which is competent enough of carrying out the great task which awaits the nation.

The land of Gandhi cannot be mortgaged to those seeking power for selfish ends or patronizing coterie, caste or group interests. Your struggle today is for rediscovering the true identity of this nation. Your struggle is for restoring the image of India, an India united as a nation, resurgent and on the march, the people, those who are struggling to make a better society free from discrimination and poverty and disease.

The coming election is about the rediscovery and the reassertion of India's true identity. It is because of that realization by the Janata Party, it is because the Janata Party alone is concerned with those ideals and not with power for the sake of power that I ask you to vote for my party to form the next Government of India.

Some people object that our party has many disparate elements in it. Yes, we had. Many people have come and gone [words indistinct] right by the local party and even it tried to break it from within [words indistinct]. I would like to ask our critics whether there had been any major movement from our party since then, while among other parties there are constant processions from one house to another and back again? Our party indeed had an equation of strength by the induction of more and more people from the minorities and weaker sections. I mentioned all these only to show that we are a united party, united on principles and no one has any reservation on the program or task facing the next government. It is the only party which can restore a stability to the body politic of India and provide a competent government for this great and ancient land or ours whose people deserve a political leadership dedicated to their ideals. Jai Hind [Hail India].

Raps Gandhi's Emergency

BK230942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Janata Party leader, Jagjivan Ram, has said that while Mrs Gandhi is offering the stability of 1975, the Janata Party promises stability with dignity and all basic freedomes. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, the Janata leader said that by emphasizing on the performance of her government in the years of the emergency, Mrs Gandhi is trying to justify the emergency. He said no doubt he had moved the resolution for the emergency, but he favored it as a short-term measure and did not want it to continue for long.

Jagjivan Ram expressed the hope the Janata Party will secure an absolute majority in the elections. He said the poll prospects of his party are improving every day and the anger of the people against the party a few days ago was a friendly criticism.

INDIRA GANDHI MAKES ELECTION APPEAL TO NATION

BK211716 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1508 GMT 21 Dec 79 BK

[Election broadcast by Congress-I leader Indira Gandhi--recorded]

[Text] Friends, it is almost 3 years since I had the opportunity of speaking to you over radio or television. This period had been a traumatic experience for all of us. It began when land given by our government to harijan [untouchable] and adibasis [tribal people] were forcibly taken back. Other forms of harassment, including the horrifying [word indistinct] incident followed and was continued unabated. Which section of the public has not been compelled to agitate for one reason or another and what is the extent of the Janata Party and Lok Dal governments to this? Many agricultural laborers were shot dead in the firing in Pantnagar. More than 40,000 teachers were put behind bars in U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] alone. Doctors on strike were handcuffed. Innocent engineers, who haven't even taken part in their strike, had been arrested.

Why are minorities now feeling still insecure and threatened? Communal riots have increased in number and intensity causing great loss and untold misery. There is frustration all around.

Much continues to be said about the emergency. Why? Because the Janata Party and Lok Dal had little to say about their own performace and least to offer to the future. I have admitted that some mistakes at various levels were committed and expressed regrets.

Let us see what has happened in the last 30 months. Imagine, in Delhi the seat of the central government the crime rate has increased by 40 percent. Smugglers, hoarders, child-lifters, the snatchers of jewelry are (attributed) to intensify their anti-social and criminal activities. The law and order situation has deteriorated disasterously. Murders, rape and decoity [robbery] have increased manifold.

When I left the government the Indian economy had attained a position of strength never achieved since independence. In 1975-76 the gross national product had recorded an all time increase of nine percent. Industrial growth was up by 10 percent. Agricultural production increased by 22 percent, our food reserves and foreign exchange reserves by 10 percent. The wholesale price index fell from 178 to 167 and inflation discontinued. Altogether, the Indian economy was poised for rapid economic growth, and taking the capability of tackling the problems on its own.

Contrast this performance of our Congress government with that of the Janata Party and Lok Dal when the country's economy has touched the lowest ebb. At the same time the gross national product has shown a downward trend. Industrial growth was below zero, agricultural production has fallen by 20 percent, prices of essential commodities have shot up 30 and inflation is already 20 percent. Certain essential daily goods like sugar, kerosene, matches and salt are difficult to obtain. Unemployment has gone up by 2 million, making a dark future for our young people.

It is ridiculous to assume that Congress has been anti-kisan [farmer]. Our planning is based on the welfare of farmers. Our industrial policy is not in confrontation with the growth of agriculture. On the contrary, it compliments and helps it by providing the necessary incentive. What is the status of kisan today? In fact, he has never been worse off. He has not received adequate prices for his produce while the prices of input is soring. Essential items such as diesel, kerosene oil and electricity are just not available.

We attach special importance for the modernization of agriculture in a manner that will benefit the poor and needy farmers and promotion of cottage and small industries. At the same time we must expand our industrial base. The welfare of industrial workers is an overriding measure of social justice. We want their active participation in the production and managing processes of industry.

The pernicious theory put forward by the Lok Dal and favored by the Janata Party that developing countries should confine themselves in [word indistinct] technology has elicited praise from quarters which would like us to provide a ready market for their own goods. We must ourselves realize that this takes us away from self-reliance and thus losing our independence.

The deplorable performace of the Janata Party and its successor government has managed to lower Indian prestige to such an extent that a number of countries feel to humiliate and ignore it. The grace over the successful foreign policy showed by Jawarharlal Nehru and pursued over 3 decades with vision and wisdom has now been distorted and even reserved by the Janata Party government. As a result India's role in [word indistinct] international affairs has become ineffective and this great nation has been relegated to the humiliating position of a nonentity, as recently happened in China, at the Commonwealth prime ministers' conference in Lusaka and the nonalined summit in Havana.

Our manifesto has outlined our priorities and program. May I point out once again that we are committed to democracy and freedom of the press. The last election, which the Congress governmen: held and lost, we only affirmed our faith in democratic processes. I do believe that with the great diversity of our country and the individualistic character of our people, no other system can work. We regard socialism which insures economic justice and secularism which insures social equality as pillars of true democracy.

I am sure people will no longer be misled by false slogans about so-called authoritarianism. The people of India have now to address themselves to the arduous task of putting the country once again on the road to order, stability, purposeful government and progress. I invite you to share in this challenging but rewarding event. The very basis of democracy is that to exercise your vote. Do elect the government that works. Please vote Congress-I, the symbol of the hand. Jai Hind [Hail India]

RAJ NARAIN ADDRESSES NATION ON ELECTION

BK210419 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1500 GMT 20 Dec 79 BK

[Election broadcast by Lok Dal Party leader Raj Narain--recorded]

[Summary] "Dear voters! It is a matter of great pleasure for me address to you on the occasion of the mid-term election. The present mid-term election is being held during the decisive phase in our country's history and the voters are faced with many challenging issues before them. Under such circumstances it has become necessary to correctly assess the social and political situation and differentiate between truth and falsehood to protect our genuine interests. This election will not be limited to the makings or unmaking of a government. The future of democracy depends on its outcome. The election will decide whether peace and tranquility will prevail in our country and whether prosperity will increase or whether inflation, anarchy, injustice and communal disorder will rule."

Lok Dal is the only party which has a clear program for basic changes in the country's sociopolitical system. It derives its strength from the determination to formulate a courageous and constructive policy to meet India's national needs. Lok Dal's policies are guided by the Gandhian philosophy which enjoys the massive support in this country and serves the cause of genuine democracy.

"While defending the country's independence and working to create a socialist society, Lok Dal is strongly committed to personal freedom and a balanced, equitable economic order. Lok Dal is fully aware that the majority of Indians live in villages and their survival is linked with agriculture. That is why the party has recognized the importance of agriculture in its policies. Industrial development could not be imagined without reflecting this policy. Lok Dal will try its best to defend the farmers interests. Our government will try to extend capital and irrigation, power and other facilities to the farmers. Small and marginal farmers will be provided with cheap credit. Land reform laws will be speedily implemented. The party will place the land reform laws in the ninth schedule of the constitution to protect them from challenge in law courts."

Lok Dal also proposes to provide electricity to every village.

The country is faced with inflation. Lok Dal believes that an efficient public distribution system is required to free the people from the clutches of spiralling prices. Lok Dal is the only party which has an effective program to solve the unemployment problem because it recognizes everybody's right to work. Lok Dal's economic policy stresses the growth of small and cottage industries where millions will find employment.

"It is the declared policy of Lok Dal to fully encourage cottage industries and goods which can be produced by these units will be reserved for them only. A good result of this policy will be that the foreign multinational companies' grip on the Indian economy will weaken and the monpolistic stranglehold of big capitalists will be broken. Such companies have badly exploited the Indian people. On the average, these companies extract from us about one billion rupees every year in the form of royalty fees on dividends. Other than this, foreign companies working in India unnecessarily interfere in our political affairs. At least three foreign companies have so far admitted they maintained accounts for bribing Indian political parties, officials and labor leaders."

The Lok Dal government will end disparity between rural and urban areas. It will also set up agriculture and other profit oriented units in villages. Skyscrapers and five-star hotels are social stigmas for any developing country. Luxury goods production will be curbed and attention will be paid to essential goods and such services as health and civic transportation and drinking water facilities. According to the latest planning commission statistics, 46.33 percent of our population still lives below the poverty line. The Lok Dal aims to divert national resources only to productive sectors of the economy to end poverty. The Lok Dal will try to establish an efficient tax collection machinery and introduce reforms in tax laws. The Lok Dal is the only party capable of tackling corruption by cutting it at its roots. It will lift all unnecessary control of economic life which is at the root of corruption. The Lok Dal will protect the rights of minorities and backward classes and end the dowry system.

"The forth-coming election will prove decisive for our country's future. Different leaders through their maneuvers are trying to deceive the common people. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [rightwing Hindu militant organization] has joined the election battle by identifying itself with the Janata Party. Today Mrs Gandhi is trying to be a benefactor of the minorities and talking of restoring the original status of the Aligarh Muslim University. It cannot be forgotten that the most (?cruel) atrocities were committed against the minorities during Mrs Gandhi's emergency rule and the Aligarh Muslim university was interfered with only at that time. Mrs Gandhi has endeavored to throttle democracy and establish her family's rule. Today it has been proved that Mrs Gandhi is engaged in rehabilitating her son and once defamed associated caucus. The need to guard the people from this threat has further increased.

"I was the first person to challenge the perpetrators of injustice. I was the one who defeated Mrs Gandhi in the elections. Under present circumstances, I want to reiterate that believing in Mrs Gandhi's (?assurances) will prove fatal. We do not believe in the politics of deception and distortion, or are we puppets of capitalists or under foreign influence. Our thinking is guided by national interests and the solution of national problems. That is why I believe you will vote for Lok Dal candidates to defend democracy and the prosperity of the common man.

GANDHI SUED FOR USING AIR FORCE PLANES IN 1977 ELECTION

BK231014 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Dec 79 BK

[Text] A PTI [Press Trust of India] report says that the Government of India has filed a suit in the Delhi high court for recovery of about 1.6 million rupees from Indira Gandhi for use of Indian Air Force planes in her 1977 election tours. The suit was filed through the Ministry of Defense. It says the former prime minister had failed to pay the amount in response to a notice served on her on the 14th of last month.

Court Sets Hearing Date

BK240854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Supreme Court today fixed the 7th of next month for hearing the application of the union of India for staying the operation of the Delhi high court judgement quashing the prosecution of Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Pranab Kumar Mukherjee for their refusal to depose before the Shah Commission. The court will also on that day hear the application for explaining certain parts of the judgement.

Meanwhile Mr Justice M. Bhagwati in his order stayed the trial of Mr Bansi Lal, Mr Sanjay Gandhi and Mr Dhrendra Brahmachari pending before the chief metropolitan magistrate of Delhi for their refusal to depose before the Shah Commission.

Congress-I, Janata Reaction

BK220507 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 79 BK

[Excerpt] The Delhi high court today granted the union government leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against its judgement in the oath case against Mrs Gandhi and Mr Pranab Mukherjee. Granting the permission, Mr Justice T.P.S. Chawla observed that the questions involving the case are of vital importance.

Commenting on the Delhi high court judgement, the Congress-I general secretary, Mr.A.R. Antulay, said that it has now been judiciously demonstrated as to how the Shah Commission subverted the constitution and the cabinet system of government. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he alleged that the commission have been instituted only to indict and humiliate Mrs Gandhi, her family members, colleagues and party workers.

The Janata Party has said that the jubilation in the Congress-I camp on the judgement in the case shows that it has rekindled respect for the judiciary in that camp. A party spokesman commenting on the judgement expressed the hope that Mrs Gandhi's veneration for the judiciary and its impartiality will survive any reversal of the judgement.

TRADE TALKS WITH SOVIETS BEGIN IN DELHI 22 DEC

BK221333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The India-Soviet trade talks have begun in New Delhi. The Soviet delegation is led by the deputy foreign trade minister, Mr Grishin. During his week-long stay in India, Mr Grishin will sign the India-Soviet trade protocol for the next year and a long-term agreement for 1980-1985.

PAKISTAN

PRESIDENT HAQ DEPARTS FOR SAUDI ARABIA 24 DEC

BK240909 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 24 Dec 79 BK

[Excerpt] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad this morning for Saudi Arabia on a 3-day visit. He was accompanied by Federal Ministers Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Lt Gen Faiz Ali Chisti, Lt Gen Ghulam Hassan Khan and Mr Mahmud A. Haroon and the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi.

During his meeting with King Khalid in Saudi Arabia the president will convey to him the congratulations and good wishes of the people of Pakistan on the clearing of the miscreants from the holy precincts of the Khan al-Ka'bah and on its reopening for prayers.

SHAHI TRIP TO KABUL POSTPONED DUE TO BAD WEATHER

BK221529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs Mr Agha Shahi could not leave Islamabad for Kabul today for a 2-day visit due to inclement weather in and on the way to Kabul. It has been officially stated in Kabul that because of Mr Agha Shahi's prior engagements over the next few days he will now visit Kabul on 30 and 31 December. The new program of the visit has been fixed in consultation with the Afghan Government.

Departure for Tehran

BK260832 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 26 Dec 79 BK

[Excerpt] Islamabad, 26 Dec (AFP)--Presidential foreign affairs advisor Agha Shahi unexpectedly left Karachi for Tehran today for what are expected to be talks on the crisis between the U.S. and Iran. Mr Shahi was invited by Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh. The Pakistani official yesterday cut short a visit to Saudi Arabia with President Ziaul Haq to make the Tehran visit. Pakistan [word indistinct] announced the visit today but did not say how long it could last.

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO SUPPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

BK230954 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Donald McHenry, has said that the American request for economic sanctions against Iran because of its failure to release the American hostages is expected to be taken up for consideration by the UN Security Council after Christmas. He expressed the view that it will be difficult to obtain the council's approval for the sanctions. Mr McHenry said he already has talked with the council president, China's Zhen Zhu on the issue and is presently exchanging views with council members on the subject.

When newsmen approached a council member--Kuwait's (Yakoub Beshawa)--he replied that his country is opposed to economic sanctions against Iran. He stated: Why did you not raise your voice when the Palestine issue was raised?

Pakistan's envoy, Niaz A. Naik, who is not a council member, stated that Pakistan will not support the sanctions. He said Pakistan supports the efforts of Dr Waldheim. He added that we are facing a revolutionary situation.